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and to whom we look with hope of advantage: it is highly desirable especially for those, who, from their sphere of life look up to the acquisition of political power, or, with a truly patriotic heart, are anxious to acquire those fundamental principles, on which a manly, vigorous eloquence may be reared. Among many impious and absurd notions, Rousseau in his *Emilius* and *Sophia* has some just ones; among which he speaks much on the necessity of this very acquirement. The late Mr. Pitt, was much indebted for his fame, as an Orator, to this practice, I would so much recommend. His father conversed with him much, and familiarly; he obliged him to give a reason for every thing he advanced; sometimes argued with him, and thus formed him at an early age both to think, and to express those thoughts. Is it not rather a remarkable circumstance, that, even in the very seat of literature in this country, almost no effort should be made to cultivate that natural taste for eloquence, which we are generally allowed to possess. Yet so it is: if we except a few dronish discourses on oratory, delivered some years ago, and an occasional premium now for a better sort of school-boy theme, there is no exertion made.

Mr. R. I have often regretted this Dr. and have felt hurt, when, with all my partiality for my Alma Mater, I feel compelled to pronounce her nothing better than a mere school-mistress; and I have frequently been tempted to try, if it were possible to rouse her to some higher effort. Granting (which I do not) that her undergraduate course were excellent, why should not the graduates be more considered; but I forbear; this would perhaps lead us too far from the subject before us.

Dr. S. Little I think remains to be said, now on it, as we seem all pretty well agreed.

Adjourned to the next week.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING met with the following description of the CITY OF LONDON, written by William Fitzstephen, a monk

of Canterbury, about the middle of the *twelfth century*, I have transcribed it for publication in your Magazine, with the hope that it may prove entertaining to many of your readers, who may not have had an opportunity of perusing the original, or any translation thereof.

The simplicity of the style seems peculiarly adapted to a description of the City of London, at the time in which our author wrote. To contrast the manners, customs, morals and even diversions of the inhabitants of the first city in the empire, under the government of Henry the second, and George the third, at periods so remote from each other, must prove highly interesting to the philosophic mind.

BECKET.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE MOST HONOURABLE CITY OF LONDON.

The situation thereof.

AMONGST the noble cities of the world, honoured by fame the city of London is the one principal seat of the kingdom of England, whose renown is spread abroad very far; but she transporteth her wares and commodities much farther, and advanceth her head so much the higher. Happy is she in the wholesomeness of the air, in the christian religion, her munition and strength, the nature of her situation, the honour of her citizens, the chastity of her matrons, very pleasant also in her sports and pastimes, and replenished with honourable personages. All which I think meet severally to consider.

The Temperature of the Air.

In this place, the calmness of the air doth mollifie men's minds, not corrupting them with inordinate conceptions, but preserving them from savage and rude behaviour, and seasoning their introductions with a more kind and free temper.

Of Christian Religion there.

There is in the church of St. Paul, a bishop's see, it was formerly a metropolitan, and as it is thought, shall recover the said dignity again, if the citizens shall repair each unto the island; except, perhaps the archiepiscopal title of St. Thomas the martyr, and his bodily presence, do perpetuate this honour to Canterbury, where now his reliques are. But seeing St.

Thomas hath graced both these cities, namely, London with his birth, and Canterbury with his death; one place may allege more against the other, in respect of the sight of that saint, with the accession of holiness. Now, concerning the worship of God in the Christian Faith; there are in London and in the suburbs thirteen greater conventual churches, besides one hundred and twenty-six lesser parish churches.

Of the Strength and Site of the city.

It hath on the east part a tower palatine, very large and very strong, whose court and walls rise up from a deep foundation: the mortar is tempered with the blood of beasts. On the west are two castles well fenced. The wall of the city is high and great, with seven gates, which are made double, and on the north distinguished by turrets with spaces; likewise, on the south, London hath been enclosed with walls and towers; but the large river of Thames, well stored with fish, and in which the tide ebbs and flows, by continuance of time, hath washed, worn away, and cast down these walls. Farther above, in the west part, the King's palace is eminently seated upon the same river; an incomparable building, having a wall before it, and some bulwarks; it is two miles from the city continued with a suburb full of people.

Of the Gardens planted.

Every where without the houses of the suburbs, the citizens have gardens and orchards planted with trees, large, beautiful and joining one another.

Of their Pastures.

On the north side are fields for pasture, and open meadows very pleasant; among which the river-waters do flow, and the wheels of the mills are turned about with a delightful noise. Very near lieth a large forest, in which are woody groves of wild beasts, in the coverts whereof do lurk bucks and does, wild boars and bulls.

Of the Fields.

The arable lands are no hungry pieces of gravel ground; but like the rich fields of Asia, which bring plentiful corn, and fill the barns of those that till them, with an excellent crop of the fruits of Ceres.

Of their Wells.

There are also about London, on the

north of the suburbs, choice fountains of water, sweet, wholesome and clear, streaming forth among the glistening pebble-stones; in this number, Holywell, Clarkenwell, and St. Clement's well, are of most note, and frequented above the rest, when scholars and the youth of the city take the air abroad in the summer evenings.

Of the Citizens' Honour.

This city is honoured with her men, graced with her army, and peopled with a multitude of inhabitants. In the fatal wars under king Stephen, there went out to a muster, men fit for war, esteemed to the number of 20,000 horsemen armed, and 60,000 footmen. The citizens of London are known in all places, and esteemed above all other citizens, for their civil demeanour, their good apparel, their table, and their discourse.

Of the Chastity of the Matrons.

The Matrons of this city may be paralleled with the Sabine women.

Of their Schools.

In London three famous schools are kept at three principal churches, St. Paul's, the Holy Trinity, and St. Martin's; which they retain by privilege and ancient dignity; yet, for the most part, by favour of some persons, or some teachers, who are known and famed for their philosophy; there are other schools there upon good will and sufferance. Upon holidays, the masters, with their scholars, celebrate assemblies at the festival churches. The scholars dispute there for exercise sake; some use demonstrations, others topical and probable arguments; some practise enthymemes, others do better use perfect syllogisms; some exercise themselves in dispute for ostentation, which is practised among such as strive together for victory; others dispute for truth, which is the grace of perfection*. *The sophisters, which are dissemblers, turn verbalists, and are magnified when they overflow in speech, and abundance of words; some also are*

* If we did not know that the monk Fitzstephen wrote the description of these sophisters near 700 years ago, we would be led to think that he had in his eye, a school kept in our days, within the chapel of St. Stephen, at Westminster, of which the Rt. Hon. Wm. P—t, was principal teacher.

entrapped in deceitful arguments. Sometimes certain orators with rhetorical orations, speak handsomely to persuade, being careful to observe the precepts of art, who omit no matter contingent.

The boys of divers schools wrangle together in versifying, or canvass the principles of grammar, or dispute the rules of the preterperfect, and future tenses. Some there are that deal in epigrams, rhymes and verses, use that trivial way of abuse. These do freely abuse their fellows, suppressing their names, with a fescenine and railing liberty; these cast out most abusive jests, and with Socratical witty expressions, they touch the vices of their fellows, or perhaps of their superiors, or fall upon them with a satirical bitterness, and with bolder reproaches than is fit. The hearers, prepared for laughter, make themselves merry in the mean time.

How the affairs of the City are disposed.

The several craftsmen, the several sellers of wares, and workmen for hire, are all distinguished every morning by themselves, in their places as well as trades. Besides, there is in London, upon the river's bank, a public place of cookery. There, every day we may call for any dish of meat, roast, fried, or boiled; fish both small and great; ordinary flesh for the poorer sort, and more dainty for the rich, as venison and towel.

If friends come upon a sudden, wearied with travel, to a citizen's house, and they be loth to wait for curious preparations, and dressings of fresh meat; let the servants give them water to wash, and bread to stay their stomach, and in the mean time they run to the water side, where all things that can be desired are at hand. Whatsoever multitude of soldiers, or other strangers, enter into the city at any hour of the day or night, or else are about to depart; they may turn in, bait and refresh themselves to their content, and so avoid long fasting, and not go away without their dinner. If any desire to fit their dainty tooth, they take a goose; they need not to long for the fowl of Africa, no, nor the rare godwit of Ionia. This is the Public Cookery, and very convenient for the state of a city, and belongs to it. Hence it is, we read in Plato's

Gorgias, that next to the physician's art is the trade of cooks.

Of Smithfield.

Without one of the gates is a certain field, plain (or smooth) both in name and situation, every Friday, except some greater festival come in the way: there is a fine sight of good horses to be sold; many come out of the city to buy or look on; to wit, earls, barons, knights, citizens, all resorting thither. It is a pleasant sight, there to behold the animals well-fleshed, sleek, and shining, delightfully walking, and their feet on either side up and down together, by turns; or else trotting horses, which are more convenient for men that bear arms; these, although they set a little harder, go away readily, and lift up and set down together, the contrary feet on either side. Here are, also, young colts of a good breed, that have not been well accustomed to the bridle; these fling about, and by mounting bravely, show their mettle. Here are principal horses, strong and well limbed. Here are also breast horses, fit to be joined by couples, very fair and handsome, and sleek about the ears, carrying their necks aloft, being well fleshed, and round about the buttocks. In another part stand the country people, with cattle, and commodities of the field, large swine, and kine with their udders strutting out, fair-bodied oxen, and the woolly flock. There are also cart horses, fit for the dray, or the plough, or the chariot; and some mares, big with foal, together with others that have their wanton colts following them close at their sides.

Concerning Shipping and Merchandize.

To this city merchants bring in wares, by ships, from every nation under heaven. The Arabian sends his gold, the Sabeen his frankincense and spices, the Scythian, arms; oil of palms from the plentiful wood, Babylon her fat soil, and Nylus her precious stones; the Seres send purple garments; they of Norway and Russia trouts, furs, and sables, and the French their wines*.

* Among all the abundance of good things enumerated by our author, he never once mentions *consors, omnium, sink-*

Its Antiquity and Government.

According to the report of chronicles it is more ancient than the city of Rome; for both being descended from the same Trojan stock, Brute builded this before Remus and Romulus did the other. Whence still it useth the same ancient laws, and common institutions. For this our city, like to that, is distinguished by wards and several limits; it hath sheriffs every year, answerable to their consuls, it hath aldermen, enjoying the dignity of senators, besides inferior magistrates, it hath also common sewers, and conveyances for waters in the streets. Concerning causes in question, there are several places and courts, for causes deliberative, demonstrative, and judicial; upon their set days also they have their common council and great assemblies.

The only plagues of London are immoderate drinking of idle fellows, and frequent fires.

Of Sports and Pastimes.

Every Sunday in Lent, after dinner, a company of young men ride out into the fields on horses which are fit for war, and principal runners; every one among them is taught to run the rounds with his horse.

The citizens' sons issue out through the gates by troops, furnished with lances and warlike shields; the younger sorts have their pikes, not headed with iron, where they make a representation of battle, and exercise a skirmish. There resort to their exercise many courtiers, when the king lieth near hand, and young striplings out of the families of barons, and great persons which have not yet attained to the warlike girdle, to train and skirmish. Hope of victory inflames every one; the neighing and fierce horses bestir their joints, and chew their bridles, and cannot endure to stand still; at last they begin their race, and then, the young men divide their troops; some labour to outstrip their leaders, and cannot reach them; others fling

down their fellows, and get beyond them.

In Easter holidays they counterfeit a seafight; a pole is set up in the middle of the river, with a target well fastened thereon, and a young man stands in a boat which is rowed with oars, and driven on with the tide, who, with his spear, hits the target in his passage; with which blow, if he breaks the spear and stand upright, so that he hold footing, he hath his desire; but if his spear continue unbroken by the blow, he is tumbled into the water, and his boat passeth clear away: but on either side this target, two ships stand in ward, with many young men ready to take him up after he is sunk, as soon as he appeareth again on the top of the water. The spectators stand upon the bridge, and in solars upon the water, to behold these things, being prepared for laughter.

Upon the holidays all summer, the youth is exercised in leaping, shooting, wrestling, casting of stones and throwing of javelins fitted with loops for the purpose, which they strive to fling beyond the mark; they also use bucklers like fighting men. As for the maidens they have their exercise of dancing and tripping till moonlight.

In winter, almost every holiday before dinner, the foaming boars fight for their heads, and prepare with deadly tushes to be made bacon; or else some lusty bulls, or huge bears are baited with dogs.

When that great moor which washeth moorfields at the north-wall of the city, is frozen over, great companies of young men go to sport upon the ice, and bind to their shoes, bones, as the legs of some beasts, and hold stakes in their hands, headed with sharp iron, which sometimes they strike against the ice: and these men go on with speed, as doth a bird in the air, or darts shot from some warlike engine.

Sometimes two men set themselves at a distance, and run one against another, as it were at tilt, with these stakes, wherewith one or both of these parties are thrown down, not without some hurt to their bodies; and after their fall, by reason of the violent motion, are carried a good distance one from another, and whosoever the ice doth touch their head it rubs off all the skin

ing-fund, nor even bank-notes! Are we to conclude from this omission, that the jolly citizens of London, in those days, knew of no such matters? Quere, how did they contrive to live so happily without them?

T.

and lays it bare; and if one fall upon his leg or arm, it is usually broken; but young men being greedy of honour, and desirous of victory, do thus exercise themselves in counterfeit battles, that they may bear the brunt more strongly when they come to it in good earnest.

Many citizens take delight in birds, as sparrow-hawks, goss-hawks, and such like, and in dogs to hunt in the woody ground. The citizens have authority to hunt in Middlesex, Hertfordshire, all the Chilterns, and in Kent, as far as the Gray Water.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

(Continued from Page 265, No. IV.)

THE Report made by the Committee, on the 15th of July last, contained a general view of the objects proposed by the institution, with an answer to some popular objections that had been urged against the practicability of its plans. This report has been printed, and largely circulated, both in London and in every part of the united kingdom, and, as the Committee have reason to believe, has produced, wherever it has been circulated, an impression in favour of the institution.

The first care of the Committee has been to open a correspondence with such persons in Africa as were likely to be useful in promoting the Society's views. The persons to whom they have written are Mr. Ludlam, the Governor of Sierra Leone, and Mr. Torrane, the Governor of Cape Coast Castle.

They directed Mr. Ludlam's attention, in the first instance, to the important object of giving full effect to the act for abolishing the Slave Trade, requesting to be informed, from time to time, of the actual state of that trade (whether British or Foreign) on the coast; of the degree in which the abolition laws of Great Britain, and of other nations, are effectual; and, if ineffectual, by what means, and under what pretences they are evaded; and also what steps

may be advantageously taken to prevent such evasion.

The Committee, however, were aware, that even the complete prevention of the export of slaves from the coast, might produce little immediate effect in civilizing Africa, unless something could be done to counteract those pernicious habits which the slave trade had nourished, and particularly to convince the native chiefs how essential it is to the prosperity of their country, that measures should be immediately adopted for insuring to their subjects the safe enjoyment of person and property.

The Committee directed Mr. Ludlam's attention to various other points, such as the best means of setting on foot journeys of discovery, of promoting agriculture, of cultivating the friendship and confidence of the native powers, and of producing among them, a spirit of union and harmony. And besides requesting him to furnish the Committee with all the information in his power respecting the natural productions of Africa, its agricultural and commercial facilities, and the moral, intellectual, and political condition of its inhabitants: they particularly urged him, with a view to the success and stability of the colony of Sierra Leone, to employ the lights, which an experience of upwards of ten years had afforded him, in pointing out, with precision and in detail, the system of policy which appeared to him best suited to the circumstances of the colony, in regard to its interior management, and its relations with the African chiefs; and in regard also to the promotion of civilization, both within the colony, and, by means of the colony, among the surrounding natives.

The Committee, at the same time, empowered Mr. Ludlam to erect a school at Sierra Leone, under the patronage, and at the expense of the Institution, the object of which should be not merely to teach reading and writing, but to combine with these elementary branches of knowledge, instruction in agriculture and other useful arts. It was suggested, that to the school should be annexed a small